



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

- WHEREAS: Food allergies are a growing public health concern. An estimated 15 million people in the United States have food allergies, including 6 million children under the age of 18. Furthermore, research indicates that the prevalence of food allergies is increasing among children; and
- WHEREAS: Eight foods account for most food-allergic reactions: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish, and shellfish. Reactions typically occur when an individual unknowingly eats food containing an ingredient to which he or she is allergic, as very small amounts of an allergen can cause a reaction, which may result in hives, swelling of the throat, or respiratory distress; and
- WHEREAS: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergies are the cause of more than 200,000 ambulatory-care visits each year involving children under 18. Instances of anaphylaxis caused by food have also risen more than 300 percent over the last decade; and
- WHEREAS: There is no cure for food allergies; and
- WHEREAS: Eating away from home can pose an increased risk to people affected by food allergies, as research suggests that food served in restaurants or other food service establishments triggers almost half of fatal food allergic reactions; and
- WHEREAS: Strict avoidance of food allergens and early recognition and management of allergic reactions to foods are important measures to prevent serious health consequences, including anaphylaxis, a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death; and
- WHEREAS: Failure to promptly treat food anaphylaxis with epinephrine is a risk factor for fatalities, and prompt administration is crucial to successfully treat anaphylactic reactions; and
- WHEREAS: Organizations across the country, including Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE), are dedicated to educating the general public, schools, and restaurant management about life-threatening allergic reactions, risk management procedures, and how to enact an emergency action plan. Food Allergy Kids of Atlanta is a statewide, nonprofit organization that works in Georgia communities to increase both awareness and education about food allergies, anaphylaxis, asthma, and other related conditions; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 13–19, 2018, as FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia and encourage Georgians to increase their awareness of the causes and symptoms of food allergies and anaphylaxis.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

  
CHIEF OF STAFF